

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A phone-interface device, comprising:

a receiver to receive a wireless signal from a control panel, wherein the wireless signal encodes information regarding a sensor event; and
5 a phone port to connect to a telephone line, wherein the phone port is further to receive configuration data from the monitoring station.

2. The phone-interface device of claim 1, further comprising:

memory to contain data received from the control panel.

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3. The phone-interface device of claim 2, further comprising:

a controller to buffer the data in the memory.

4. The phone-interface device of claim 3, wherein the controller is to buffer the data in the memory when a first data-rate between the phone-interface device and the control panel is too slow to accommodate a second data-rate between the phone-interface device and the monitoring station.

15 5. The phone-interface device of claim 3, when the controller is to buffer the data in the memory in anticipation of the monitoring station requesting the data.

20 6. The phone-interface device of claim 1, further comprising:

memory to contain data received from the monitoring station.

25 7. The phone-interface device of claim 6, further comprising:

a controller to buffer the data in the memory when a data rate between the phone-interface device and the control panel is too slow to accommodate a data-rate between the phone-interface device and the monitoring station.

8. A phone-interface device, comprising:

a phone port to receive configuration data; and

a transmitter to send the configuration data via a wireless signal to a control

5 panel.

9. The phone-interface device of claim 8, further comprising:

10 memory to store the configuration information for later communication to the control panel.

10. The phone-interface device of claim 8, wherein the transmitter is to send the configuration data to the control panel while the phone port is on-hook.

11. The phone-interface device of claim 8, wherein the transmitter sends the configuration data to the control panel while the phone port is off-hook.

15 12. The phone-interface device of claim 8, wherein the phone port is to call a designated device to report success or failure of transmission of the configuration data.

20 13. A phone-interface device, comprising:

a phone port to receive tones from a telephone; and

a transmitter to relay the tones to a control panel via a wireless signal.

25 14. The phone-interface device of claim 13, wherein the tones are DTMF tones.

15. The phone-interface device of claim 13, wherein the telephone and the phone port are on a same premises.

16. The phone-interface device of claim 14, wherein the telephone is off-premises
from the phone-interface device.

17. A phone-interface device, comprising:

5 a phone port to receive tones from a telephone;
 a controller to translate the tones into a command; and
 a transmitter to send the command to a control panel via a wireless signal.

18. The phone-interface device of claim 17, further comprising:

10 a sensor to sense a trouble condition at the phone-interface device;
 a transmitter to transmit wireless signals containing data regarding the trouble
condition to a control panel.

19. The phone-interface device of claim 18, wherein the trouble condition further
15 comprises phone line removal.

20. The phone-interface device of claim 18, wherein the trouble condition further
comprises

cover removal.

20 21. The phone-interface device of claim 18, wherein the trouble condition further
comprises removal from mounting.

25 22. The phone-interface device of claim 18, wherein the trouble condition further
comprises low battery.

23. The phone-interface device of claim 18, wherein the trouble condition further
comprises power supply trouble.

24. A phone-interface device, comprising:

a controller to determine whether a signal from a control panel has been received, and when a signal has not been received within a period of time, the controller is to transmit an error message to a monitoring station.

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25. A control panel, comprising

a controller to determine whether a signal from a phone-interface device has been received, and when a signal has not been received within a period of time, the controller is to transmit an error message to a user.

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26. The control panel of claim 25, wherein the error message is transmitted via a display associated with the control panel.

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